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Instruction Memorandum No. WY-2007-028
Expires: 9/30/2008

To: Field Managers
Attn: Zone Foresters
From: State Director
Subject: Timber Volume Measurement

Program Area: Forestry

Purpose: Policy for timber volume measurement.

Policy/Action: As per WO IM No. 2004-154, the policy to sell all timber sales following the National Cubic Foot rule was rescinded. This IM also gives the State Director the authority to determine the form of timber measurement to be used for timber sales and other forms of disposal, including stewardship contracts.

The policy for timber volume measurement for Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is as follows:

Timber sales and other forms of timber disposal will be done in the board foot, cubic foot measurement (National Cubic Rules), or weight scale; dependent on the best value to the Government. Each case will be evaluated based on the product being offered and the current market conditions. Consistency should be maintained for similar types of products to avoid confusion with the customers whenever possible.

It remains Bureau policy that the reportable form for merchantable timber volume is in thousand board feet (MBF) and biomass is in green tons. If a timber sale or other disposal is done using cubic measure, the following conversion factors will be used for entry into BLM reporting systems:

1. Use the conversion factors for individual species as published in the most current US Forest Service Region 2 Appraisal Data Bulletin.
2. Use the general conversion factor listing in the most current Wyoming BLM Forest/Vegetative Product Minimum Price List.
3. Use the conversion factors in the Timber Sale Information System (TSIS)

If a weight scale is used:

1. and if the forest product measured in board feet, not biomass; the sale contract will establish a weight per board foot. Normally this conversion is between 10 and 14 pounds per board foot for green timber and 5 and six 6 for dead timber. The zone forester will be responsible for establishing this weight as part of the contract preparation.
2. and if the forest product is biomass, then actual weight scale at the yard of the product measured in tons will be used.

Time Frame: This policy is effective immediately for all BLM timber sales and other forms of forest products disposal, such as stewardship contracts.

Budget Impact: No short term impacts are expected. If the National Cubic Foot Rule is utilized, experience has shown that it takes up to two times longer than the standard Scribner Rules for cruising. The existing cruise volume software accommodates both forms of measurement.

Background: 43 CFR 5420.0-6 states that timber will be measured by tree cruise, log scale, weight, or other form of measurement as may be determined in the public interest. The regulations do not establish which log rule will be used to define the volume of timber sold in BLM contracts. As referenced in the above WO IM 2004-154 there have been changes in the BLM timber volume measurement requirements within the last 3 years that have caused some confusion among field level foresters.

Manual/Handbook Sections Affected: None.

Coordination: This IM has been coordinated with WO 270 (Forestry) and the Zone Foresters in Wyoming.

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